

Report of the Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills and the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods

**2015/16 Third Quarter Monitoring Report – Learning & Culture**

**Summary**

- 1 This report analyses the latest performance for 2015/16 by reference to the service plans and budgets for all of the relevant services falling under the responsibility of the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods and the Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills.

**Financial Analysis**

- 2 Due to a number of work pressures, financial information will be reported in full detail at the next scrutiny committee.

**Performance Analysis**

- 3 The information provided below relates to performance indicators available at Annex A and commentary relates specifically to information available at the end of Quarter 3, which has been previously been made available at Full Council.
- 4 Looked after Children: The number of children in care remained in line with previous trends at 188. This is within the safe and expected range, which has been stable for a significant amount of time. This will continue to be monitored as a key indicator.
5. Child Protection: As predicted last quarter, the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan increased in Q3. Earlier in the year, there was an increase in the number of cases going to Initial Child Protection Conference which impacted on Child Protection levels as these have worked through the process. Social Care Managers have looked closely at this increase, and, whilst there do not appear to be any clear emerging patterns at this stage, it is being monitored regularly by the extended management team.
6. Educational Attainment: Provisional data shows that the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at aged 16 (GCSEs) narrowed in 2015. York's performance was closer to the National average in 2015 than in 2014. This shows significant progress, but it will remain a priority to make further improvements. To that end, it will form a key priority within the next

Children and Young People's plan. In 2015 the Council allocated additional funding of £25,000 to support work with schools to close the gap. This money is being used to support the development of a cross city virtual network to allow schools to share best practice. This was a recommendation from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee report produced in March 2015. In order to develop the network a lead school has been identified in each of the six geographical clusters. Each lead school has received funding to participate in a national programme to narrow the gap which has been facilitated by the Whole Education network. The programme provides each school with the opportunity to benefit from international research and supports them to implement school based strategies to narrow the gap. Learning from the project will be reviewed at a regional conference being hosted in York on 11th March 2016. The work being done in the lead schools will form the basis for developing the virtual cross city network during 2016 and will be launched with all schools in September 2016.

7. Personal Support and Inclusion: The number of young people starting work with Personal Support and Inclusion workers to date in 2015/16 has exceeded the annual target. Through this provision, young people get significant support to identify their goals and access help to achieve them.
8. Physical Activity: Thirty one schools and over 9,000 pupils across the city took part in the biggest ever Walk to School Week campaign in October which aimed to encourage even more children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. The scheme was also targeted at families who normally take the car, and encouraged them to consider walking or cycling to school instead.
9. Homelessness: The number of households being accepted as homeless has increased by 2 to 27 but the number of households with children has remained the same (18). The number of children in temporary accommodation has decreased to 77 (from 82), and the number of families in temporary accommodation has decreased to 40 (from 47).
10. Youth Unemployment: Figures from the Office for National Statistics highlighted a 65.96 per cent fall in the youth unemployment count since December 2014.
11. Tourism: Newly released figures by Visit York, for 2014, showed that business tourism attracted an estimated 977,000 delegates (attending a meeting or conference), generating £141 million for the local economy. Visitor numbers were up by 1.5 per cent from 6.7 million to 6.8 million annually and the number of jobs in the city supported by tourism rose from 19,000 to 20,300.

## **Council Plan**

12. This report is directly linked to the three key priorities of the Council Plan for 2015-19: A Prosperous City for All; A Focus on Frontline Services; and A Council that Listens to Residents.

## Implications

13. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## Recommendations

14. As this report is for information only there are no specific recommendations.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest financial and performance position for 2015/16.

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all* All

For further information please contact the authors of the report

## Background Papers

[2015/16 Finance & Performance Monitor 3, Executive 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016](#)

## Annexes

Annex A – 2015/16 Quarter 3 Performance Scorecard

## **Abbreviations**

CLA - Children Looked After

CPP – Child Protection Plan

CSES – Children’s Services Education and Skills

E&M – English & Maths

FSM – Free School Meals

GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education

KS – Key Stage

LA – Local Authority

Q3 – Quarter 3

SEN - Special Educational Needs

YTD – Year to Date

YOT – Youth Offending Team